

**Neighborhood Ten Study
Committee Meeting #1
September 13, 2004
Introduction/ Mental mapping**

Committee Members Present: Rebekah Kaufman, Henry Lukas, Joan Marszalek, Robert Putnam, Rachel Cobb, Primo Vannicelli, John Moukad, Joshua Rowland, Bill Forster, Jason Mahler, Peter Sturges, Ravi Sundaram, Sandra Uytterhoeven, Peter Hiam

Staff Present: Stuart Dash, Taha Jennings, Elaine Thorne

Welcome and introductions

The Neighborhood Ten Study Committee was introduced to staff from the City of Cambridge Community Development Department that would be working with them throughout the study process. Taha Jennings, and Elaine Thorne both Neighborhood Planners within the Community Planning Division of the Community Development Department, as well as Stuart Dash, the Director of Community Planning.

Study Committee members then introduced themselves, explained which area of Neighborhood Ten they reside in, and also what they felt were issues that should be addressed during the study process.

Many committee members expressed an interest in discussing transportation issues including traffic, parking, and pedestrian safety. Another frequently mentioned topic was economic development, in particular, the business environment and balancing commercial and residential needs. Also, mentioned several times were open space and recreation, and housing affordability. Several other topics were noted by Committee members including childcare, municipal services, human environment, health, graffiti, and the changing neighborhood.

Neighborhood study process and roles of study committee

Staff noted that Neighborhood Ten is the last neighborhood in Cambridge to have a Neighborhood Planning Study completed. The objective of the Neighborhood Study is to identify major planning issues that should be addressed, as well as to help guide the future of the neighborhood. It was pointed out to the Committee that some of the planning topics discussed can vary between neighborhoods, but the main subjects of the final study will include land use and zoning, traffic and transportation, housing, open space, and economic development. There will also be public meetings throughout the process in order to gather input from the wider Neighborhood Ten community. The final product of the process will be the Neighborhood Ten Neighborhood Study.

The roles of the committee would be to discuss issues they felt are important to Neighborhood Ten, develop recommendations, and help establish priorities for any issues that need to be acted on. While city staff involved in the project will facilitate the committee meetings and presentations, as well as provide information to committee as needed and requested. Staff will also write the final report and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations.

The recommendations in the study will be formulated by the Study Committee over the course of the study process, serve as a guide to future planning in the neighborhood and are incorporated into the work programs and policies of City departments.

It was noted that in several neighborhoods, the Community Development Department has undergone a Neighborhood Study Update process. The Neighborhood Study Update is a way of reporting back to neighborhood residents on the recommendations made in the original Neighborhood Study. The goal is to have Neighborhood Study Updates done for each neighborhood every 3-4 years.

Schedule and ground rules

After a brief discussion on the upcoming study committee schedule, members were asked to come up with some ideas for ground rules for the committee process. There were some questions about how a consensus is reached during the meetings. Someone noted that the discussion should not be overly restrictive. There was also some discussion about privacy issues and respectful interaction among committee members.

Mental mapping exercise

Study Committee members participated in a mental mapping exercise. Each committee person was given a blank piece of paper and asked to draw a map of Neighborhood Ten. Committee members were instructed to pay particular attention to edges, nodes, districts, and landmarks. After drawing their maps, each committee member shared their results with the group. The goal of the exercise was to illustrate what physical features, areas, and issues in Neighborhood Ten are significant to the Study Committee. The exercise also assisted the committee in understanding how they see Neighborhood Ten in relation to each other.